



Foreign Affairs Council

Brussels, 20 July 2023

*The Foreign Affairs Council, chaired by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, **Josep Borrell**, will take place in Brussels starting at **10.00**.*

*The Council will discuss the **Russian aggression against Ukraine**, after a short intervention via videoconference by the **Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine** Dmytro Kuleba.*

*The Council will then exchange views on the **foreign policy dimension of economic security**, and **Türkiye** over lunch.*

*In the afternoon, ministers will have an informal exchange via videoconference with **US State Secretary** Antony Blinken.*

*Under **current affairs** the Council will touch on, amongst others, **China**, the **EU-CELAC summit** of 17-18 July, **Armenia and Azerbaijan**, and the **Middle East Peace Process**.*

*The Council will be preceded by an informal breakfast hosted by the High Representative with the **United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**, Volker Türk.*

Doorstep of the High Representative: +/- 8.15

Press conference on FAC: +/- 17.30 in a hybrid format

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[Foreign Affairs Council - meeting page](#)

[Video coverage of the event in broadcast quality \(MPEG4\) and photo gallery](#)

[Press conferences and public events via video streaming](#)

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¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the Council press office.

Russian aggression against Ukraine

The Foreign Affairs Council will discuss the Russian aggression against Ukraine, after an exchange of views with Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba via videoconference at the beginning of the meeting.

Minister Kuleba is expected to update the Council on the situation on the ground, and Ukraine's current needs and priorities.

The ensuing ministerial discussion will focus on the following work strands:

- EU security commitments: on 29 June, the European Council concluded that the EU and its member states would swiftly consider the modalities to contribute, together with partners, to future security commitments to Ukraine. The EU is already one of the main contributors to Ukraine's immediate and long-term security and resilience through military assistance, financial, trade and economic support, hosting of refugees and displaced people, reconstruction, EU accession path and promotion of reforms, as well as restrictive measures, support to accountability mechanisms and outreach to third countries. At the FAC, ministers will discuss the elements of further EU support, both of military and non-military nature.
- Ukraine's Peace Formula and outreach efforts: ministers will discuss the outcomes of the international meeting on a just peace for Ukraine that took place in Copenhagen on 24 June. They will focus on President Zelenskyy's Peace Formula and the ongoing and future EU outreach efforts to promote this initiative, also in view of holding a Peace Summit in the future.
- Food security: ministers will discuss food security, including the consequences of Russia's decision to allow the Black Sea Grain Initiative to expire on 17 July.

In the European Council conclusions of 29-30 June 2023, the EU reiterated its resolute condemnation of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which constitutes a manifest violation of the UN Charter, and recalled its unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and its inherent right of self-defence against the Russian aggression.

Russia must stop its aggression and immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces and proxies from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

The European Union will continue to provide strong financial, economic, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support to Ukraine and its people for as long as it takes.

- [European Council conclusions, 29-30 June 2023](#)
- [Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine: EU adopts 11th package of economic and individual sanctions \(press release, 23 June 2023\)](#)
- [EU response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine \(background information\)](#)

Foreign policy dimension of economic security

The Foreign Affairs Council will hold a first discussion on the joint communication of the European Commission and the High Representative on a “European Economic Security Strategy” of 20 June 2023, focusing on its foreign policy dimension. The joint communication focuses on minimising risks arising from certain economic flows in the context of increased geopolitical tensions and accelerated technological shifts, while preserving maximum levels of economic openness and dynamism.

The proposed strategy is based on three priorities: (1) promoting the EU’s competitiveness; (2) protecting the EU from economic security risks; and (3) partnering with the broadest possible range.

The Joint Communication explicitly points to specific areas falling under the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), where the High Representative should take action, in particular “explore the targeted use of CFSP instruments to enhance EU economic security including Hybrid and Cyber Diplomacy toolboxes and foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) toolbox”.

Ministers will discuss the role of Foreign Affairs Council in the governance of the implementation of the Joint Communication; the targeted use of CSFP instruments to support this strategy; and communication and outreach efforts.

- [Joint communication “European economic and security strategy”, 20 June 2023](#)

Türkiye

The Council will exchange views on EU-Türkiye relations, following the European Council conclusions of 29-30 June which invited the High Representative and the Commission to submit a report to the European Council on the state of play of EU-Türkiye relations, building on the instruments and options identified by the European Council and with a view to proceeding in a strategic and forward-looking manner. The discussion will focus on the EU-Türkiye relationship from this perspective. The EU continues to engage with Türkiye, building on common interests, while trying to bridge the differences. The EU will continue to seek progress in areas where possible.

Türkiye is a key partner for the European Union and a candidate country. EU-Türkiye relations are guided by the June 2021 European Council conclusions, and previous European Council and Council conclusions. As concerns enlargement, the General Affairs Council conclusions of December 2022 reiterated the Council’s position of June 2018 that under the current circumstances, Türkiye’s accession negotiations have come to a standstill.

- [Türkiye, background information](#)
- [European Council conclusions on external relations, 24 June 2021](#)
- [General Affairs Council conclusions on enlargement and stabilisation and association process, 13 December 2022](#)

Informal exchange with US State Secretary Antony Blinken.

Secretary Blinken and Ministers will exchange on how to strengthen the already strong EU-US foreign policy cooperation and coordination, including on how to work together on global challenges, the respective approaches towards China and engagement with emerging partners.

They will also discuss our unprecedented level of cooperation in response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The EU and the US remain fully united in their unwavering support of Ukraine. This is the fourth time that Secretary Blinken has participated in a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council since his confirmation on 26 January 2021. The HR also hosted Blinken in Brussels in April. Secretary Blinken's participation in the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council comes approximately one week after his attendance at the 2023 NATO Summit in Vilnius on 11-12 July with President Biden.

Current Affairs

The Foreign Affairs Council will discuss current affairs during which ministers will be able to exchange views on recent events and on fast-moving developments in external relations.

The High Representative will share his impressions of the discussions that took place at the latest European Council on **China**, and shortly debrief on his meeting with the Director of the Chinese Communist Party Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, Wang Yi, last week in Jakarta.

The High Representative will inform the Council about the main outcomes of the **EU-CELAC summit** of 17-18 July.

Ministers will also briefly touch upon efforts towards the normalisation of relations between **Armenia and Azerbaijan**, including the work of the President of European Council, Charles Michel.

The High Representative will also refer to the joint visit by the Foreign Ministers of Austria, Czechia and Slovakia to North Macedonia on his behalf on 13 July.

Lastly, Ministers will touch upon the **Middle East Peace Process** in light on developments in Israel and the occupied Palestinian Territory.

- [European Council conclusions on China, 30 June 2023](#)
- [EU-CELAC summit, 17-18 July 2023](#)
- [Press remarks by President Charles Michel following trilateral meeting with President Aliyev of Azerbaijan and Prime Minister Pashinyan of Armenia \(15 July 2023\)](#)
- [Israel/Palestine : Statement by the High Representative Josep Borrell on the recent escalation of violence \(EEAS website, 26 June 2023\)](#)

Informal breakfast with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

During an informal breakfast, EU ministers will exchange views with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk and have a discussion on the global state of human rights. They will also exchange views on how the EU can enhance its collaboration with the High Commissioner and his office, especially in light of the changing dynamics in the UN Human Rights Council and in the context of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.